

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution, and I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5039.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE HENRY JOHNSON ANNEX

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 480) to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 747 Broadway in Albany, New York, as the "United States Postal Service Henry Johnson Annex."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 480

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE HENRY JOHNSON ANNEX.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 747 Broadway in Albany, New York, and known as the United States Postal Service Carrier Annex, shall be known and designated as the "United States Postal Service Henry Johnson Annex".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the United States Postal Service Henry Johnson Annex.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 480, the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 480, introduced by the gentleman from New York (Mr. McNULTY), redesignates the Albany postal facility as the Henry Johnson Annex. This legislation honors Sergeant Henry Johnson, a hero of World War I and a native of Albany.

Sergeant Johnson was a member of the Army's all-black 369th Infantry Regiment, but because black soldiers were unable to fight in American combat units overseas, Sergeant Johnson actually fought on the allied side under

the French flag during World War I. For his incredible valor and skill in combat, Sergeant Johnson posthumously earned a Purple Heart, a Distinguished Service Cross and even the greatest French military honor, the Croix de Guerre.

Mr. Speaker, one byproduct of the war on terror has been a renewed and sincere national appreciation for the sacrifices of the men and women in the Armed Forces. This bill, H.R. 480, gives this Congress a chance to publicly acknowledge and appreciate a great patriot of America's past. Sergeant Johnson was a terrific hero of World War I, about whom Americans should never forget.

I am hopeful that this postal facility will soon wear the name of Sergeant Henry Johnson, and I urge the other body to swiftly consider H.R. 480. I urge our colleagues to vote in favor.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank our colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. McNULTY), for introducing this legislation which was unanimously reported by the Committee on Government Reform on September 15. It enjoys the full support of the entire New York delegation.

Sergeant Henry Johnson, an Albany native, served in the U.S. Army from June 1917 until February 1919. As an African American, he was unable to fight at that time in an American combat unit, and therefore, he became part of what was known as the "Harlem Hell Fighters," who fought in Europe under the French flag with great courage and distinction.

While on duty, he single-handedly fought off a German raider party of more than 20 troops, and despite numerous wounds, he rescued a fellow soldier from capture and killed several enemy soldiers. As a result of his heroism, as our colleague has indicated, he received numerous medals.

When he returned from Europe to a segregated America, he experienced great difficulty and died unrecognized by his own country in 1929. I truly believe that it is never too late to reward a person for service to their country, and for that reason, I am pleased to join with the gentleman from New York (Mr. McNULTY) and our other colleagues to redesignate a U.S. postal facility in Albany after Henry Johnson.

I urge swift passage of this legislation.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of our time.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. McNULTY), the author of this legislation.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

On behalf of the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), the gentleman from New York (Mr. SWEENEY) and all

of the New York delegation, I am proud to support H.R. 480 which designates the U.S. postal service facility at 747 Broadway in Albany, New York, as the Henry Johnson Annex.

Henry Johnson was a native of Albany, served in World War I, and was an African American who joined the all-black New York National Guard unit, the 369th Infantry Regiment, based in Harlem.

Mr. Speaker, about 400,000 black soldiers served in the Armed Forces at that time. Half were sent overseas, and many were stationed in France. They were not allowed to serve with white soldiers. They were not allowed to fight with American combat units. But the members of the 369th soon proved themselves. They became known as the "Harlem Hell Fighters," and that was not a name they took for themselves. That was a name given to them by their enemies.

No one personified the bravery of the 369th more than Henry Johnson. On guard duty on May 14, 1918, then-Private Johnson came under attack by a German raider party of two dozen. Despite sustaining 21 wounds, he single-handedly fought off the Germans and rescued one of his buddies . . . with only a rifle and his bare hands. He became the first American of any color—in any conflict—to receive the Croix de Guerre, France's highest military declaration.

His exploits got newspaper coverage in America and throughout Europe. He was featured in Teddy Roosevelt's book, "Rank and File: True Stories of the Great War." The Army used Johnson's name and likeness to advertise for war bonds and to recruit minorities into service.

Yet, at that time, despite all he had done, Johnson received no official recognition from his government. None. That recognition came much later.

After the war, Henry Johnson returned to upstate New York and worked on the railroad. He later died penniless on the streets of Albany, New York.

Since integration of the military in 1950, some African American service men and women have been recognized for their gallant service. Recognition of African Americans prior to integration, alarmingly neglected for so many years, had finally begun.

It was not until 1997, Mr. Speaker, that Henry Johnson was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart. I was proud to be there for that ceremony. In 2002, his grave was found in Arlington National Cemetery, not in the pauper's cemetery outside of Albany where he was believed to be buried. In 2003, at the Pentagon, in an official service, Herman Johnson, the son of Henry Johnson, a distinguished veteran himself, accepted the Distinguished Service Cross, the Army's number two award, for his Dad.

In 2003, Mr. Speaker. Henry Johnson did all of these things in 1918, and it took until 2003 to award him the Distinguished Service Cross. Many of us

are still disappointed that despite all of the documentation we have given to the Pentagon that he has not received the award that he truly deserves, which is the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Mr. Speaker, today, I want to give public thanks to John Howe, the historian of Albany's 369th Veterans Association and all of his colleagues who have worked for years and years to get these recognitions for Henry Johnson.

I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. SWEENEY), both of whom have taken leadership positions in making sure that we correct these injustices of the past, along with Senators CLINTON and SCHUMER who have been stalwart supporters of the effort to award the Congressional Medal of Honor to Henry Johnson.

Mr. Speaker, the cause endures. I thank all of my colleagues today for supporting this bill, but believe me, Mr. Speaker, based on the record, we should be doing a lot more than naming a post office building after Henry Johnson. We have worked hard through the years. We got the Purple Heart and we got the Distinguished Service Cross. We need to go the final step and obtain the Congressional Medal of Honor for Henry Johnson.

I thank all the members of our New York delegation, and the many others in the Congress and across this country for staying with us in this battle through the years. In the end, Mr. Speaker, justice shall prevail.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I would just ask that our colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 480.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### CONGRATULATING LANCE ARMSTRONG ON RECORD-SETTING VICTORY IN 2004 TOUR DE FRANCE

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 761) congratulating Lance Armstrong on his record-setting victory in the 2004 Tour de France.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 761

Whereas Lance Armstrong has proven himself to be the premier cyclist in the world with his most recent Tour de France victory;

Whereas Lance Armstrong's victory on July 25, 2004 makes him the only cyclist in history to win the Tour de France 6 times;

Whereas Lance Armstrong displayed incredible perseverance, determination, and

leadership on a course that included the mountainous terrain of the Pyrenees and the Alps, cobblestones, crashes among competitors, and inclement French weather on his way to winning his 6th Tour de France;

Whereas in 1997, Lance Armstrong defeated choriocarcinoma, an aggressive form of testicular cancer that had spread throughout his abdomen, lungs, and brain, and after treatment has remained cancer-free for the past 7 years;

Whereas Lance Armstrong is the first cancer survivor to win the Tour de France;

Whereas Lance Armstrong's courage and resolution to overcome cancer have made him a role model to cancer patients and their families around the world, and his efforts through the Lance Armstrong Foundation have helped to advance cancer research, diagnosis, and treatment, and after-treatment services;

Whereas Lance Armstrong is the world's most recognizable face of cycling, which is not only a sport, but a healthy fitness activity, a pollution-free transportation alternative, and a metaphor for life;

Whereas Lance Armstrong continues to represent his hometown of Austin, his home state of Texas, and the United States with unparalleled distinction;

Whereas Lance Armstrong serves as an inspiration to children and adults throughout the world, teaching people that they can overcome incredible odds and achieve their loftiest goals through hard work, determination, and belief in themselves; and

Whereas Lance Armstrong's accomplishments as an athlete, teammate, cancer survivor, and advocate have made him an inspiration to millions of people around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates Lance Armstrong on his historic victory in the 2004 Tour de France;

(2) commends the unwavering commitment to cancer awareness and survivorship demonstrated by Lance Armstrong; and

(3) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to Lance Armstrong.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 761, the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today the House celebrates flat out the greatest cyclist who ever lived. Lance Armstrong won his record sixth Tour de France title in July, and for that reason, we honor his successes on the House floor today.

He broke the record of five straight tours held by himself and Spain's Miguel Indurain who won the race from 1991 through 1995.

□ 1445

No one had ever even won six Tour de France races, let alone six straight.

With his victory, Lance Armstrong further cemented his place as one of sports' greatest individual athletes. His incredible accomplishment of six straight grueling Tour de France wins can be ranked among any of sports' greatest feats; Joe Dimaggio's 56-game hitting streak and Cal Ripken's 2,632 consecutive games played; Edwin Moses' 107 straight hurdles finals wins in track; Wayne Gretzky's 51-game scoring streak in hockey; Bobby Bonds' soon-to-break Henry Aaron's record.

These are all amazing accomplishments, and by virtue of his victory, Lance Armstrong quite simply joins those people as an athlete for the ages. Perhaps more amazing than being the world's greatest cyclist is the fact that Lance is living, period. Eight years ago, he overcame a deadly form of cancer.

Lance has been a stellar athlete since his youth, playing soccer and cycling, but after high school, he focused solely on cycling. From 1991 through 1996, Lance won 13 bike races, including the U.S. National Amateur Championship in 1991 and the World Championships in 1993. By 1996, Armstrong was the top ranked cyclist in the world. But during 1996, after a victory at the Tour Dupont in North Carolina, he began to feel fatigued and more discomfort than usual, even after an exhausting race. Later that year, he was diagnosed with testicular cancer.

Some of Lance's doctors at the time gave him only a 40 percent chance of surviving. And interestingly enough, he is quoted in his book as saying he thought they were being kind. Lance underwent three major operations. He endured chemotherapy to fight off the disease that had spread to his abdomen, his lungs and his brain. And remarkably, with the help of our scientists and medicine, the treatments were successful. Within a short year of being diagnosed with cancer, he was pronounced cancer free.

As a survivor, Lance became one of the world's most influential cancer research advocates. You and I probably see him on TV every now and then. He founded the Lance Armstrong Foundation to promote cancer research and awareness. He also wrote the best selling book, *It's Not About the Bike: My Journey Back to Life*. It tells the full story of how his early successes were interrupted by cancer, how he survived cancer and how he eventually returned to racing and won his first Tour de France in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, now that Lance has won his sixth straight race at the Tour de France, I strongly urge adoption of this measure. We all congratulate Lance for the most recent of his six incredible wins on the world's greatest cycling stage and for his fervent advocacy of cancer research. I urge my colleagues to adopt this resolution. Today, it is not *Vive la France*; today, it is *Vive la Lance*.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.